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Letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the President of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), I should be grateful if you would circulate the CPLP Declaration on Guinea-Bissau, enclosed herewith (see annex), as an official document of the Security Council.

The referred Declaration was approved by the Permanent Consultation Committee of CPLP, in Lisbon, on 25 November 2008.

(*Signed*) João **Salgueiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

08-62528 (E) 051208

Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

CPLP Declaration on Guinea-Bissau

1. CPLP condemns the overnight attack against the residence of the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on 23 November.

2. CPLP manifests its support to the authorities of Guinea-Bissau and its solidarity towards the Guinean people, who have overwhelmingly and orderly expressed their fundamental right to elect their representatives on 16 November.

3. With the formation of a new democratic government under way, CPLP underlines the urgent need to use all channels of dialogue, with a view to ensure political stability and the normal functioning of institutions, as a precondition for the mobilization of the international community in support of Guinea-Bissau's development process.

4. CPLP encourages the local formation of the International Contact Group for Guinea-Bissau to convene as soon as possible, with the objective of assessing the views of the various national and international actors in Guinea-Bissau.

5. CPLP will undertake all efforts to mobilize Guinea-Bissau's international partners, either through the International Contact Group, or through the bilateral action of its member States, as a means to reinforce the country's international standing.

6. Therefore, and after consulting with the Permanent Consultation Committee, the Portuguese Presidency of CPLP proposed to the other member States the adoption of a CPLP programme for the stability of Guinea-Bissau, based on three main pillars:

(a) A decisive and effective fight against drug trafficking;

(b) The deepening of the security sector reform;

(c) The mobilization of international resources for the development of Guinea-Bissau.

7. In this context, CPLP will organize a political mission to Bissau, as soon as the new Government of Guinea-Bissau is formed, for consultations on the implementation of this programme. CPLP will also work with major international partners of Guinea-Bissau in the preparation of an International Donors Conference to mobilize the necessary financial resources to support ongoing reform programmes of modernization and development.

8. CPLP will continue to pursue its actions in close coordination with the relevant international and regional organizations — particularly the United Nations, the European Union and ECOWAS — to ensure the complementarity of resources and initiatives.

Lisbon, 25 November 2008